

8/10. (Twice Amended) [A] The schedule-set-up management system in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said schedule-preparing means evaluates the influence of the information supplied from said watching center of the implementation of said schedule, and again prepares a schedule based on evaluation results.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 9, 1999 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are made in response thereto.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank Examiner Hernandez for her courtesies extended to Applicants' Representative during the June 8, 1999 and October 7, 1999 telephonic interviews. The substance of these interviews is embodied in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the application for various alleged informalities. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and 120. The Examiner further indicates that the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS)s filed on December 16, 1996, June 3, 1997 and March 18, 1997 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(3). Further, the Examiner objected to claim 4 because of a noted informality.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,237,499 to Garback in view of travel planning system (travelers.net.com) [hereinafter "Travelers"] and claim 5 under the same as being unpatentable over the combination of Garback and Travelers in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,289 to Nimura et al. [hereinafter "Nimura"].

By this Amendment, the specification has been amended according to the helpful suggestion made by the Examiner. In addition, claims 1-10 have been amended for clarity and to further define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Thus, claims 1-10 are presently pending in this application for consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references as required by § 103. Applicants further submit that the cited references fails to disclose "a frame-preparing means for preparing a basic frame of a

schedule including types of intermediate and final locations, and a transfer order, based on said destination information and desired arrival time information" as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, these claims are allowable over the cited references. This distinction will be further described in the following section.

THE CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner indicates that the Applicants have not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and 120 by not containing a specific reference to the prior applications(s) in the first sentence of the specification. In addition, on the Office Action Summary the Examiner acknowledges our claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d), however, she indicates that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The specification has been amended to include the reference to the prior application as noted by the Examiner. In a telephone conference conducted with the Examiner on June 8, 1999, we explained to the Examiner that all of the required certified priority documents have been filed in corresponding PCT application (PCT/JP95/02459) of which the subject application is a national stage filing pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371(c). It is not believed that any additional documents are required to perfect Applicant's claim to priority. Thus, Applicants submit that they have complied with the conditions for receiving benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and 120.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner indicates that the information disclosure statements filed December 16, 1996, June 2, 1997 and March 17, 1997 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(C) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Applicants respectfully submit that an English language abstract for each of these documents which explains the relevance has been submitted. During the October 7, 1999 telephonic interview, the Examiner agreed that the abstract was received. Thus, consideration of these references and acknowledgment thereof by the Examiner is also respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention, that Form PTO-1449 filed September 4, 1998 has not been acknowledged. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the form PTO-1449 and provide us with an initialed and signed copy of the form.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the allowability of independent claim 1 as described below, Applicants respectfully decline to amend the dependent claims to place them into independent form at this time.

THE CLAIM DISTINGUISH OVER THE CITED REFERENCES

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Travelers and claim 5 under the same as being unpatentable over the combination of Garback and Travelers in further view of Nimura. The Examiner alleges that Garback discloses each of the claimed features except for "entering desired arrival time information and a transfer order based on the desired arrival time." It is alleged that Travelers or U.S. Patent No. 4,862,357 to Ahlstrom et al. [hereinafter "Ahlstrom"] (which was not cited in the rejection statement), discloses this feature of claim 1. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to provide the feature of entering desired arrival time information and a transfer order based on the desired arrival time taught by Travelers or Ahlstrom in the system of Garback to make easier and enhance the schedule for people who are traveling.

The present invention relates to a schedule setting and processing system. The system can prepare a travel plan in which the actual destination and route to be taken are specified given an estimated positional and temporal condition. Travel information is supplied through a terminal and transmitted to an information center. At the information center, a basic frame of travel is constructed using the supplied information. The basic frame includes types of intermediate and final locations and an order of transfer based on

previously entered position and time requirements. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the basic frame is selected from a plurality of basic frames fitting the position and time requirements. Figures 10 clearly shows an example of a basic frame according to the present invention. After the basic frame has been prepared, an actual frame of travel is constructed by consulting a database. The actual frame of travel is displayed on the terminal's display to guide a user.

Garback discloses a computer travel planning system (10) for airline travel. The system includes a data base (12) containing a venue file having information regarding a specific venue, a group member file for each group member (20), a travel policy (16) having information on preselected vendors or various travel services, and a city code file (18) containing codes corresponding to a plurality of city airport locations. According to Garback, data is entered and information is displayed to an individual group member making a travel request via a terminal (22). A central processing unit is in communication with the data base and with a plurality of airline computerized reservation system (CRS)s.

In Garback, the travel policy file 16 includes information regarding the preselected vendors negotiated by the sponsoring organization. According to Garback, a representative from the sponsoring organization will negotiate with various airline carriers, hotels, and rental car companies for group travel discounts for a specific venue. Therefore, the vendors making the lowest bids on these services will be denominated preselected vendors and will be included in the travel policy file 16.

Terminal 22 includes both a keyboard and a display which allows a user to enter data. The display includes a format screen 71 with blanks to permit entry of various travel data as shown in FIG. 3¹. As shown in FIG. 3, the group member initiates the travel request process by filling out screen 71. Screen 71 includes an employee identification code window 72, an individual venue or meeting code window 73, departure and destination city windows 74, 77 and return date and time windows 75, 76, 78, 79, a hotel request window 80, a car rental request window 81, special request windows 82, 83, a ticket delivery date window 84 and a verification window 85. When the user confirms that the information entered is correct via window 85, the travel request is formatted in a

¹Garback mistakenly references FIG. 4 instead of FIG. 3 in the specification.

delimited file and sent to the central system 10.

As admitted in the Office Action, Garback fails to disclose a frame-preparing means for preparing a basic frame of a schedule including types of intermediate and final locations, and a transfer order, based on said destination information and desired arrival time information as recited in independent claim 1. The screen disclosed in Garback is a generic screen, not generated based on destination information and desired arrival time information. Thus, according to Garback, screen 71 with each of the above-identified windows, appears whenever any and all users initiate a travel request process.

The passage relied upon by the Examiner in her Office Action (Garback, col. 4, line 41 -50) has nothing to do with a basic frame. At best, Garback discloses a screen 71 used to accept data from a user. Nothing in Garback discloses or suggests the basic frame as claimed.

Travelers cited by the Examiner also fails to teach the claimed feature of the basic frame and entering desired arrival time information and a transfer order based on the desired arrival time.

Ahlstrom, although not mentioned in the rejection statement, discloses a computer reservation system with means to rank travel itineraries chosen in terms of schedule/fare data. Ahlstrom also fails to disclose the claimed feature of the basic frame for entering desired arrival time information and a transfer order based on the desired arrival time. Thus, the cited reference, taken either alone or in combination, fails to suggest a frame-preparing means for preparing a basic frame of a schedule including types of intermediate and final locations, and a transfer order, based on said destination information and desired arrival time information.

In view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined by independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Since claim 1 is allowable, the claims dependent therefrom, namely claims 2-10, are also allowable for the reasons set forth above. Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between the dependent claims and the cited references are not necessary, in view of their allowability. Applicants' silence as to the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Serial No. 08/750,641
Docket: 77792/23

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks demonstrate that the application is in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is requested.

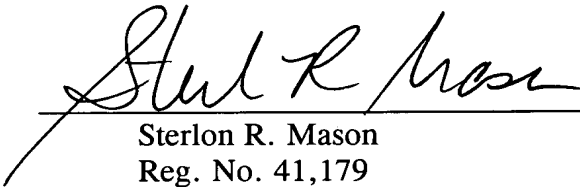
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter regarding this application

Respectfully submitted,



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